

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 /078 W
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R 181630Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5611

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 1305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CD, CM

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO CHAD COUP

REF: YAOUNDE 1227

1. SUMMARY. CHAD COUP HAS ELICITED NO PUBLIC AND ONLY LIMITED PRIVATE REACTION IN CAMEROON. ALTHOUGH MILITARY COUPS NOT RPT NOT WELCOME EVENTS, TOMBALBAYE NEVER HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM HERE AND CAMEROONIANS INCLINED EMPHASIZE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEIR OWN LEADER AND CHAD'S RECENTLY DEPOSED ONE. RELATIONS UNLIKELY BE AFFECTED ADVERSELY.

2. PRESS TREATMENT OF CHAD COUP VERY RESTRAINED. GENERAL AVOIDANCE OF SUBJECT ENDED APRIL 15 WITH LOW-KEY FACTUAL REPORTING OF COUP BASED ON WIRE SERVICE ITEMS. ONGOING NEWS COVERAGE SINCE THEN, BUT NOT RPT NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.

3. PRESIDENT AHIDJO REPORTED TO BE IN BAD MOOD BY THOSE WHO OBSERVED HIM ON HIS RETURN TO YAOUNDE FROM NORTH CAMEROON APRIL 15. IT SAFE TO ASSUME THAT ANY MILITARY COUP, ESPECIALLY ONE COMPLETE WITH DEATH OF FORMER CIVILIAN PRESIDENT, WOULD INVITE LESS THAN JOYOUS THOUGHTS. BUT NO RPT NO INDICATIONS
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ANY SPECIAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN HERE AFTER CHAD COUP.

AHIDJO REPORTEDLY WAS STRUCK BY DIORI'S DOWNFALL LAST YEAR, BUT DIORI WAS HELD IN MUCH HIGHER ESTEEM AND MORE SYMPATHETICALLY REGARDED THAN TOMBALBAYE.

4. GURC HAS MADE NO RPT NOT PUBLIC COMMENT. PRIVATE REACTION AMONG OFFICIALS SEEMS TO REFLECT LOW ESTEEM IN WHICH TOMBALBAYE HELD IN CAMEROON, E.G., WONDERMENT EXPRESSED THAT HE COULD HAVE BEEN SO INEPT AS TO ANTAGONIZE MILITARY SO CALLOUSLY WHEN HE ALREADY HAD HIS PLATE FULL OF TROUBLES AND TENSIONS. SOME RESENTMENT FELT, HOWEVER, THAT MILITARY OVERTHREW TOMBALBAYE SO SOON AFTER HIS RETURN FROM VISIT WITH AHIDJO, WHICH TAKEN AS DISCOURTESY TO CAMEROON AND LEAVES SOME DOUBT AS TO VALIDITY ANY ACCORDS REACHED WITH HIM DURING NGAOUNDERE TALKS ON EVE HIS DEATH. CAMEROONIANS DO NOT RPT NOT SEE MUCH PARALLEL BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRY AND ITS LEADERSHIP AND CHAD'S. SOME HAVE EXPRESSED THOUGHT THAT COUP PROBABLY GOOD FOR CHAD SINCE NOTHING COULD BE WORSE THAN TOMBALBAYE'S LEADERSHIP.

5. COMMENT. ALL IN ALL, TOMBALBAYE'S OVERTHROW AND DEATH, AND MILITARY TAKEOVER IN CHAD, HAVE EVOKED RELATIVELY LITTLE REACTION OR CONCERN IN CAMEROON. IN USUAL STYLE OF REFRAINING FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS, GURC UNLIKELY EITHER PRAISE OR CONDEMN CHAD'S NEW LEADERSHIP. AFTER MINIMALLY DECENT PASSAGE OF TIME, GURC LIKELY CONTINUE COOPERATION WITH CHAD TO WHICH AS NEIGHBORS BOTH COUNTRIES NATURALLY "CONDEMNED". IN FACT, IF CHAD EMERGES WITH MODERATELY STABLE AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP, COOPERATION COULD WELL BE ENHANCED.

6. DEPT PASS TO NDJAMENA WHEN APPROPRIATE.
MOORE

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